

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of:	:	
Dominique RICHE and Jean-Claude BECART	:	Examiner:
Serial No.: To be assigned	:	Group Art Unit:
Filed: March 16, 2001	:	Corres. To FR00.08284
	:	Filed June 28, 2000
For: Fil Fourré Pour L'introduction D'additifs Dans Un Bain De Métal En Fusion		
		McLean, Virginia

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment is filed contemporaneously with the filing of the subject application. Please amend the claims of the application as indicated below without prejudice in order to be able to reintroduce the subject matter in translated claims.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claim 8 and substitute the following amended claim which is on a separate sheet of paper, followed by the claim shown in its amended form using brackets and underlining on another sheet of paper:

8. (Amended) Fil fourré selon la revendication 2 **caractérisée**  
en ce qu'au dessus de l'enveloppe combustible, une protection métallique  
enserme l'ensemble constitué par l'additif, la gaine métallique et l'enveloppe  
combustible.

8. (Amended) Fil fourré selon la revendication 2 [l'une quelconque des revendications 2 à 8] **caractérisée** en ce qu'au dessus de l'enveloppe combustible, une protection métallique enserre l'ensemble constitué par l'additif, la gaine métallique et l'enveloppe combustible.

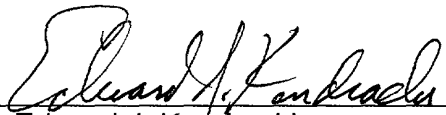
**REMARKS**

This Amendment is made, without prejudice, to avoid and remove improper multiple dependency of the claims and the extra expense associated therewith. Upon translation of the application, the dependent claims will be reintroduced as singly dependent claims.

Respectfully submitted,

Miles & Stockbridge P.C.

Date March 16, 2001

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